Amendments to the Claims

This claim listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of regulating an ovarian follicular reserve comprising administering to a patient a medicament comprising somatostatin or one of its agonist analogues.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the medicament comprises somatostatin.

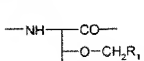
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the medicament comprises a somatostatin agonist analogue.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue is a compound of general formula (I)

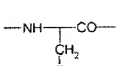
cyclo[A – Zza - (D/L)Trp - Lys - X_1 - X_2] (I)
1 2 3 4 5 6

in which:

X_1 is a radical of formula (a) or (b)



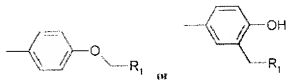
(a)



(b)

R_1 independently represents an optionally substituted phenyl radical in which the optional substituents are independently a halogen atom, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, or ethoxy radical,

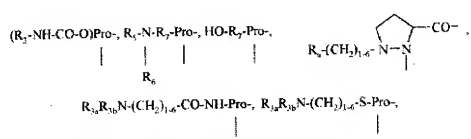
R_1 represents $-Z_1-CH_2-R_1$, $-CH_2-CO-O-CH_2-R_1$,



Z_1 is O or S;

X_2 is an α-amino acid comprising an aromatic residue on a side chain C_α, or an amino acid unit including Dab, Dpr, Dpm, His, (Bzl)HyPro, thienyl-Ala, cyclohexyl-Ala or t-butyl-Ala;

A is a divalent residue including Pro,

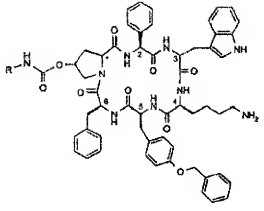


R_3 is NR_8R_9-C_{2-6} alkylene, guanidino-C_{2-6} alkylene or C_{2-6} alkylene-COOH, R_{3a} is H, C_{1-4}alkyl or R_3, R_{3b} is H or C_{1-4} alkyl, R_a is OH or NR_5R_6, R_b is $-(CH_2)_{1-3}$ or $-CH(CH_3)-$, R_4 is H or CH_3, R_{4a} is benzyl optionally substituted on the aromatic ring, each of R_5 and R_6 is independently H, C_{1-4} alkyl, ω-amino-C_{1-4} alkylene, ω-hydroxy-C_{1-4} alkylene or acyl, R_7 is a direct bond or C_{1-6} alkylene, each of R_8 and R_9 is independently H, C_{1-4} alkyl, ω-hydroxy-C_{2-4} alkylene, acyl or CH_2OH-$(CHOH)_c$-CH_2 in which c is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, or R_8 and R_9 form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached a heterocyclic group which can include an additional heteroatom, and R_{11} is benzyl optionally substituted on the aromatic ring, $-(CH_2)_{1-3}$-OH, CH_3-CH(OH)- or -$(CH_2)_{1-5}$-NR_5R_6, and ZZ_a is a natural or unnatural α-amino acid unit;

wherein X_1, X_2 and Lys each have the configuration L;

or is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or protected form of a compound of general formula **(I)**, or combinations thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue is a compound of general formula **(II)**



(II)

wherein R is $NR_{10}R_{11}$-C_{2-6} alkylene or guanidine-C_{2-6} alkylene, and each of R_{10} and R_{11} is independently H or C_{1-4} alkyl

or is a pharmaceutically acceptable salts or a protected form of a compound of general formula **(II)**, or combinations thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue includes lanreotide, octreotide, vapreotide, SOM 230, MK678, BIM-23190, BIM-23197, BIM-23268, PTR-3173, TT-232, the peptide of formula c[Tic-Tyr-DTrp-Lys-Abu-Phe], the KE 108 peptide of formula Tyr^0-(cyclo-D-Dab-Arg-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys—Thr-Phe) or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts or protected forms, or combinations thereof .

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue is lanreotide or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising administering the medicament to a woman at risk of early menopause.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising administering the medicament to a woman who has an X chromosome microdeletion.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising administering the medicament to a woman who has polycystic ovaries.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising administering the medicament to a woman who is about to have, is currently having or has had chemotherapy or irradiation.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of determining the presence or absence of an effect of acceleration of follicle growth caused by a compound comprising conducting a toxicology test of said compound with somatostatin or one of its agonist analogues.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of accelerating the start of growth of quiescent follicles in non-menopausal women comprising administering to a patient a medicament comprising a somatostatin antagonist analogue.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the somatostatin antagonist analogue includes the peptides of general formula (III)

$$A^1\text{-cyclo}\{\text{D-Cys-}A^2\text{-D-Trp-}A^3\text{-}A^4\text{-Cys}\}\text{-}A^5\text{-}Y^1$$
(III)

in which:

A^1 is an optionally substituted aromatic α-amino acid;

A^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic α-amino acid;

A^3 is Dab, Dap, Lys, or Orn;

A^4 is β-Hydroxyvaline, Ser, Hser, or Thr;

A^5 is an optionally substituted aromatic D- or L- α-amino acid; and

Y^1 is OR, NH_2 or NHR^1, R^1 is (C_{1-6})alkyl;

each aromatic α-amino acid being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently includes a halogen atom, NO_2, OH, CN, (C_{1-6}) alkyl, (C_{2-6}) alkenyl, (C_{2-6}) alkynyl, (C_{1-6}) alkoxy, Bzl, O-Bzl or NR^9R^{10}, R^9 and R^{10} are each independently H, O, or (C_{1-6}) alkyl; and each nitrogen atom with a peptide amide bond and the amino group of A^1 are optionally substituted with a methyl group, with the proviso that there is at least one said methyl group in a peptide of general formula (**III**);

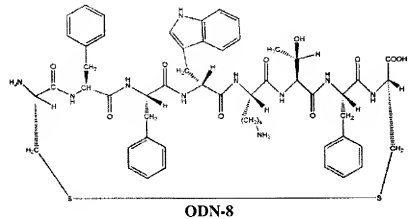
the pharmaceutically acceptable salts or protected forms of said peptides , or combinations thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the somatostatin antagonist analogue includes:

- the following peptides:

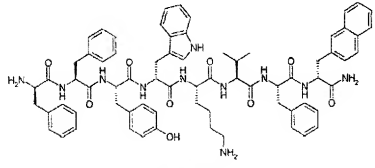
- Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys- Pal-D- Trp-N-Me-Lys- Thr-Cys]-D-Trp-NH_2;

- Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys- Tyr-D-Trp- N-Me-Lys-Thr-Cys]-Nal-NH_2;
- Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys-Pal-D- Trp- N-Me-Lys-Thr-Cys]- Nal-NH_2;
  - the peptide acetyl-D-His-D-Phe-D-Ile-D-Arg-D-Trp-D-Phe-NH_2 (code name AC-178,335);
  - the octapeptide of the following structure (code name ODN-8);



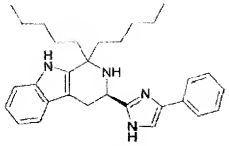
ODN-8

  - the peptide Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys]Cpa-amide (code name SB-710411);
- the peptide of the following structure (code name BIM-23056);



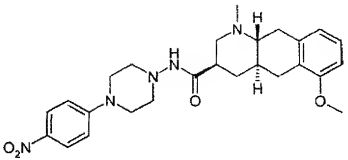
BIM 23056

  - the compound of the following structure (code name BN-81674);



BN-81674

- the compound of the following structure (code name SRA-880);



SRA-880

or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts or protected forms, or combinations thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of supporting *in vitro* follicle development comprising employing a somatostatin antagonist analogue.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of determining the presence or absence of an effect of slowing of follicle growth caused by a compound comprising conducting a toxicology test of said compound with a somatostatin antagonist analogue.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method reduces the depletion of the ovarian follicular reserve over time in non-menopausal women.

19. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the somatostatin antagonist analogue includes the peptide of formula (III), in which A^1 is Cpa, A^2 is Pal, A^3 is Lys, A^4 is Thr, and A^5 is Nal.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the somatostatin antagonist analogue includes Cpa-c(DCys-3-Pal-DTrp-NMeLys-Thr-Cys)-2-Nal-NH_2.

21. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the somatostatin antagonist analogue includes the peptide of formula (III), in which A^1 is Cpa, A^2 is 4Pal, A^3 is Lys, A^4 is Thr, and A^5 is 2Nal.